

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 EB-07 OES-03 /093 W

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R 190855Z APR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1910

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SA

SUBJECT: IRAQI-SAUDI RAPPROCHMENT PROCEEDING

1. DESPITE POSTPONEMENT OF PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT, IRAQI-SAUDI RAPPROCHMENT APPEARS TO BE PROCEEDING WELL. MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT WAS SIGNING IN BAGHDAD ON APRIL 18 OF "MINUTES OF BORDR DEMARCATION" BY SAUDI DG OF BORDERS LTGEN ABDULLAH BIN ABDUL RAHMAN AND DG OF INTERIOR ALI AL-NAQIB. NO DETAILS RELEASED. ON APRIL 13 LTGEN ABDULLAH ALSO MET WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN AND DE-CONFIDENTIAL

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LIVERED MESSAGE FROM PRINCE FAHD.

2. ABDUL REZZAQ AL-HABOUBI, GOVERNOR OF KERBALA AND KEY BAATH PARTY FIGURE, VISITED RIYADH APRIL 13-18, REPORTEDLY TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION OF 1280 KILOMETER ROAD FROM NAJOF TO MEDINA. HE WAS RECEIVED APRIL 15 BY KING KHALID. HE ANNOUNCED UPON RETURN THAT A JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT WHICH WOULD TAKE THREE YEARS TO CONSTRUCT. (THIS IS ANCIENT ROUTE OF CARAVAN AND PILGRIMAGE TRAFFIC WOULD APPEAR RELATED TO RAPPROCHMENT WITH IRAN WHICH IN TIME SHOULD RESULT IN LARGE FLOW OF IRANIANS AND OTHER EASTERN MUSLIMS TO MECCA VIA IRAQ.)

3. ON APRIL 18 PRESIDENT BAKR'S SPECIAL ENVOY MINISTER OF STATE AL-JAWARI FLEW TO SAUDI ARABIA WITH MESSAGE TO KING KHALID ON IRAQ'S COMPLAINT AGAINST SYRIA ON WITHHOLDING OF EUPHRATES WATER. ADNAN AL-HAMDANI, MEMBER OF REGIONAL PARTY LEADERSHIP AND CLOSE CONFIDANT OF SADDAM HUSSEIN, HAD MADE EARLIER TRIP (APRIL 13) TO DELIVER SPECIAL MESSAGE TO KING KHALID ON SAME SUBJECT.

4. TUNISIAN AMB TELLS ME THAT GOI NOW ENCOURAGING SAUDI EXILES IN IRAQ TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF KING KHALID'S INVITATION AND RETURN TO SAUDI ARABIS. (BAGHDAD 429)

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IRAQI DESIRE FOR RAPPROCHMENT FITS INTO NEW IRAQI FOREIGN POLICY, VERY SPECIAL ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO SAUDI ARABIA, PARTLY NO DOUBT TO BRING PRESSURE ON SYRIA OVER EUPHRATES WATERS WHICH HAS REPLACED KURDISH PROBLEM AS REGIME'S NUMBER ONE INTERNAL PROBLEM.

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